

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AGR-05 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00

FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03

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FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

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INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, EPAP, EIND, RO

SUBJECT: JOINT COMMISSION ACTIVITIES; INTERAGENCY GROUP

TRIP TO ROMANIA

REF: STATE 146593

1. SUMMARY. AMBASSADOR RAISED WITH OPREA PROPOSAL FOR EXPANDED MISSION TO EXPLORE PROSPECTS FOR TRADE AND COOPERATION. SDOPREA RECEPTIVE AND SUGGESTED INITIAL EMBASSY-MFT REVIEW OF POSSIBILITIES ON/ABOUT JULY 10. PRIOR TO THAT DATE WE REQUEST LIST OF U.S. IMPORT NEEDS THAT SECRETARY MORTON REPORTEDLY MENTIONED TO OPREA. END SUMMARY.

2. IN MEETING WITH DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER OPREA JUNE 27 AMBASSADOR INQUIRED WHETHER OPREA SAW MERIT IN VISIT TO ROMANIA OF U.S. TEAM TO DISCUSS TRADE AND COOPERATION POSSIBILITIES IN PREPARATION FOR COMMISSION MEETING. AMBASSADOR RELATED OUR STRONG INTEREST IN STIMULATING BILATERAL COOPERATION IN AGROBUSINESS SECTOR AND OUR CONSIDERATION OF JULY VISIT TO BUCHAREST OF U.S. AGRICULTURALLY-ORIENTED TEAM AS PRELUDE FOR MICULESCU VISIT AND FOLLOW ON TO CASEY'S TRIP. AS SUGGESTED REFTEL, HE INDICATED POSSIBLE ALTERNATIVE LYULDUE TO

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ENLARGE MANDATE OF DELEGATION TO INCLUDE BROAD SPECTRUM OF

ECONOMIC SECTORS.

3. REFERRING TO HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH SECRETARY MORTON, OPREA SAID GOR WAS NOW WORKING ON LIST WHICH WOULD BE GIVEN TO EMBASSY FOR TRANSMISSION TO COMMERCE. MFT MINISTER SECRETARY OF STATE IONESCU, WHO WAS PRESENT AT MEETING, INDICATED THAT HE HAD INITIATED REVIEW WITH OTHER MINISTRIES OF COOPERATION/ JOINT VENTURE PROPOSALS UNDER DISCUSSION WITH U.S. REVIEW WITH MINISTRY OF CHEMICAL INDUSTRY HAD BEEN COMPLETED AND SESSION WITH MINISTRY OF HEAVY MACHINE BUILDING PLANNED. THEREAFTER, MFT WOULD BE IN CONTACT WITH MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND OTHERS.

4. STPREA STATED THAT GOR WOULD SEEK TO COMPLETE ITS COMPILATION OF LIST OF PRODUCTS AND PROJECTS BY JULY 15. TOWARD THAT END HE SUGGESTED THAT EMBASSY AND IONESCU SHOULD TRY FOR PRELIMINARY EXCHANGE ON/ABOUT JULY 10.

5. WITH RESPECT TO U.S. CONTRIBUTION TO JULY 10 REVIEW AMBASSADOR INQUIRED AS TO KIND OF INFORMATION GOR WOULD EXPECT. OPREA STATED THAT SECRETARY MORTON HAD AGREED TO PROVIDE LIST OF ROMANIAN PRODUCTS IN WHICH U.S. FIRMS MIGHT BE INTERESTED. DESPITE SEPARATION OF BUSINESS AND GOVERNMENT IN U.S., OPREA ALSO FELT WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO PROVIDE USEFUL PERSPECTIVE ON STATUS OF SOME INDUSTRIAL COOPERATION NEGOTIATIONS.

6. ASKED BY AMBASSADOR FOR HIS ASSESSMENT OF POSSIBILITIES FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION FOLLOWING BRIEF U.S. STOP, OPREA EXPRESSED CONVICTION THAT U.S. AND ROMANIA COULD ACHIEVE MUCH HIGHER LEVELS OF TRADE AND LARGE INCREASE IN NUMBER OF COOPERATIVE ECONOMIC ENDEAVORS INCLUDING IN THIRD COUNTRIES. FORMS OF SUCH COOPERATION COULD BE OF THE MOST VARIED SORT. OPREA OBSERVED THAT HIS CONCLUSION SHARED BY PRESIDENT CEAUSESCU.

7. WE NOTE THAT MEMCON OF SECRETARY MORTON/OPREA CONVERSATION, WHICH ARRIVED AFTER AMBASSADOR'S CALL ON OPREA, MAKES NO MENTION OF COMMERCE COMMITMENT TO PROVIDE LIST OF ROMANIAN PRODUCTS OF POSSIBLE INTEREST TO U.S. FIRN. IF SUCH LIST WAS PROMISED OR COULD BE PROMPTLY COMPILED, WE WOULD VERY MUCH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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APPRECIATE RECEIVING IT BY CABLE PRIOR TO JULY 10 REVIEW WITH IONESCU. ON COOPERATION/JOINT VENTURE SIDE WE HAVE ASSEMBLED ADMITTEDLY INCOMPLETE LISTING WHICH SHOULD NEVERTHELESS CONTRIBUTE TO DEVELOPMENT OF FULLER INVENTORY.

8. ONCE REVIEW WITH IONESCU IS COMPLETED WE WILL BE IN BETTER POSITION TO JUDGE FEASIBILITY OF EXPANDING SCOPE OF AGROBUSINESS DELEGATION TO GENERAL MISSION. WE ARE, OF COURSE, SEPARATELY

PURSuing QUESTION OF AGROBUSINESS DELEGATION WITH MINISTRY OF
AGRICULTURE AND HAVE PRESSED FOR MEETING NEXT WEEK.
BARNES

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